

OFFICE OF THE STATE ATTORNEY

Brevard County Office
2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Bldg. D
Viera, FL 32940-6605
(321) 617-7510

EIGHTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA
BREVARD AND SEMINOLE COUNTIES

Seminole County Office
101 Bush Blvd.
P.O. Box 8006
Sanford, FL 32772-8006
(407) 665-6000

NORMAN R. WOLFINGER

STATE ATTORNEY



Reply To:

May 28, 2008

Chairman Kevin J. Martin
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Martin,

As Director of the Community Alliance programs for the 18th Judicial Circuit State Attorney's Office of Florida, our agency is responsible for the safety and protection of approximately one million Floridians. Not only is our goal to protect the innocent, but to prosecute law breakers and prevent criminal activity. As you can imagine this is no small task, and virtually impossible to accomplish by government alone. With this in mind, allow me to illustrate a current partnership in central Florida that is unique, successful and award winning.

In 2005, gun crime in Florida was reaching epidemic proportions. Young people in our urban neighborhoods were becoming not only gun crime victims, but the perpetrators as well. Statistics were rapidly proving that a conventional criminal justice response to this community-wide disaster was not successful. As a result, Operation Cease-Fire (OCF) was established by the State Attorney's Office to fight the problem in an unconventional manner. There were many projects involved in OCF, but prevention was a key component. The first prevention premise: *find the right messenger to speak out against gun violence in the community*. Established from this initiative was the RAP AGAINST VIOLENCE contest.

Unfortunately, there were no funds to run a contest using tax-payer money, so members of the State Attorney's Office wrote a plan utilizing partners in the community to assist. We quickly knew that without broadcast capabilities, getting the word out to potential contestants would not succeed. We promptly identified the 102JAMZ radio station in Orlando as our first choice for a partner. After meeting with them, we were overwhelmed with their enthusiasm and willingness to join on to this unusual partnership. 102JAMZ immediately took on the responsibility of producing an ad to promote the contest, giving the ad major air time, attending press conferences, on-air interviews of

law enforcement officials on the issue, working with their DJ's to promote the contest and understand the anti-gun violence message, and using their building as a drop location for the contestants' recordings. After the entries were received, 102JAMZ was an integral part of judging the winners, and promoting each of the ten artists with a live on-air interview. The winning songs were also played on the 102 JAMZ morning show. We worked daily with the 102JAMZ staff for over one year to make this first competition a success. Since then, we have completed a second contest. Astonishingly, we have 30,000 copies of the RAP AGAINST VIOLENCE CD (volume I and II) out in the community. This distribution was accomplished in no small part with the assistance of the 102JAMZ street squad.

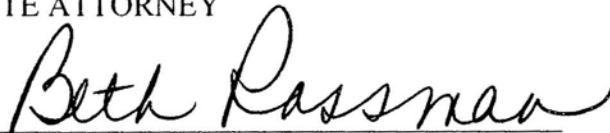
In the last year we have seen a gun crime reduction, but as long as young people are dying in their neighborhoods, 102JAMZ has eagerly volunteered to stay committed to this project. You see, the CD is not the achievement of this project, the word of mouth epidemic against gun-violence is. 102JAMZ is more than just a community partner; they are now our colleagues in this street fight to save lives!

No amount of words can describe what a victory this journey has been, but I can tell you that Florida Governor Charlie Crist has recognized 102JAMZ's accomplishments and awarded them the 2007 Governor's Community Investment Award. But maybe the highest honor is the number of communities around the country that are replicating this effort.

Please accept this brief synopsis of as the highest testimonial I can give any government or private organization I have worked with in my 27 year career. 102JAMZ represents the community of Central Florida in best way possible.

If I can answer any questions, please do not hesitate to communicate with me.

Sincerely,
NORMAN R. WOLFINGER
STATE ATTORNEY

By: 

Director Beth Rossman
321-543-2446
brossman@sal8.state.fl.us